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Quality of Dyestuffs

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1. Chemical Week recently reported that the Soviet Chemical Industry was blamed for the Soviet Union's "continued production of poorly finished textiles."
2. Premier Malenkov sharply criticised the quality of Soviet cloth in his August 1952 speech before the Supreme Soviet. Malenkov said: "...while Russian textiles are fairly durable, their finish and appearance leave much to be desired. It is no wonder Russian consumers prefer goods of foreign manufacture...".
3. Textile industry officials pleaded that they are handicapped by the failure of the chemical industry to turn out a sufficient quantity and variety of fast dyestuffs. "A severe shortage of chemical compounds to make cloth resistant to shrinkage, waterproofing and moth-resistant" was also emphasized by the textile industry officials.
4. The dyestuffs industry has been severely criticized and charged with "extremely serious inadequacies." Sulphur dyestuffs are said to contain impurities which damage the cloth and reduce their brightness.
5. Khrushchev has supported the textile industry's stand and has in effect said that the chemical industry had better look into its production techniques, which are "primitive compared with Western standards."
6. Meanwhile, Chempochka Industria states: "In 1952 the Soviet Union produced about 35 thousand to 50 thousand tons of organic dyestuffs, but the range of dyestuffs remained small, and was made up in the main of sulphur and azo dyes. Indanthrene and other valuable dyes were deliberately dispensed with, since the desire was to satisfy the requirements of the home textile industry, at least quantitatively."

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- 2 -

7. "As since 1952 the Soviet textile industry has been using more valuable fibers, such as natural wool and polyamide fibers in increasing quantities for its textiles and hosiery and knitwear; the dye factories could not supply the necessary dyestuffs. The Ministry for the chemical industry (Minister Tichomirov) ^{TIKHOMIROV} has during the past few weeks been the object of sharp attacks in the press, in which the Ministry is called upon to turn over to the manufacture of light, air and water-fast dyes for cotton and chemical fibers, as well as to more beautiful and resistant wool dyestuffs. It is improbable that this transfer will be effected in a short time and it can therefore be assumed that the Soviet Union will order part of her requirements in fast dyes from the West."

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